

# INTER-COUNTY ENERGY

   [www.intercountyenergy.net](http://www.intercountyenergy.net)

SEPTEMBER 2022

## Local heroes take Honor Flight 2022

Two veteran heroes, proudly sponsored by Inter-County Energy, will see their memorials in Washington, D.C., later this month along with other Kentucky veterans.

Louis Walker of Boyle County and William Tungate of Marion County are among the war veterans traveling from Lexington to Washington, D.C., on Saturday, September 17. Walker and Tungate will join about 70 other Kentucky veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War for a one-day tour of memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifices.

Walker, an 85-year-old Vietnam War veteran, and Tungate, a, 85-year-old Vietnam War veteran, will represent Inter-County Energy, which is sponsoring the all-expense-paid trip with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

This is the 11th year that the co-ops



TIM WEBB



TIM WEBB

have sponsored an Honor Flight. The last two flights have been canceled due to the pandemic. Inter-County Energy began working with Honor Flight in 2010.

The 2022 mission will again be coordinated by Winchester-based Honor Flight Kentucky. We invite the public to come to a "welcome home" celebration at 7 p.m. on September 17.

The veterans will fly from Lexington's Blue Grass Airport to Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., where they will board buses for a full day of honors and sightseeing.

The day includes viewing the

changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Honor Flight representatives will participate in a wreath-laying service at the tomb.

Honor Flight is a critical part of Inter-County Energy's commitment to our community. It's a privilege to fly these veterans to their memorials, and it's an opportunity to serve them in some small way to repay their service to our nation and our community.

Congratulations to our 2022 Honor Flight vets. Our goal is to make it one of your best days ever.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

# Harvest time safety: Moving large farm machinery can pose electrical hazards

Kentucky's farmers will be shifting into high gear soon as they move into their fields to bring in their crops. The increased activity puts farmers and farm workers at greater risk. Inter-County Energy reminds farmers to consider electrical safety while they're in the fields.

"Combines and grain augers are large pieces of equipment," says Jerry Carter, president/CEO of Inter-County Energy. "People assume that everything will fit under the power lines, but that isn't always the case. The biggest cause of electrocutions on farms is equipment accidentally touching power lines."

Here are some tips cooperatives recommend for farmers to protect themselves and their workers:

- Always look up and around before moving or raising equipment. Keep in mind power lines sag between poles, especially on hot days. Stay at least 10 feet from all power lines and power poles.
- Never try to raise power lines to allow passage of tall equipment.
- When considering the height of equipment, don't forget about the



ALLISON WHITE

radio antennas and GPS receivers that may reach another couple of feet above the roof.

- Remember new equipment could be bigger and taller than what it replaced. Don't assume the new equipment will fit in the same space.
- Fully lower grain augers and other portable equipment before moving them.
- When moving equipment near power lines, have a spotter to ensure your safety. If you're not completely

sure equipment will fit under a power line, find an alternate route around it.


- Watch out for power poles. Striking one may cause live lines to drop on your equipment.
  - If you're in equipment that touches power lines, stay in the cab and call for help. Tell others to stay away.
- "Working the land has enough hazards in the work itself," says Carter. "With care and planning, moving to and from the fields shouldn't be one of them."

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# Conservation Clubhouse

## Inter-County's reptiles and amphibians program

We've been busy with our Conservation Clubhouse program this year. During the program the students learn how Inter-County Energy works with biologists to ensure that building new electric lines doesn't interfere with the natural habitat of native plants and animals. After a brief slide show of various reptiles and amphibians found in Kentucky,

students get the opportunity to hold the animals, including turtles, frogs and snakes. While most of us cringe at the thought of even seeing a snake, most of the students can hardly contain their excitement during this portion of the show. For more information about Inter-County's reptiles and amphibians program, please contact April Burgess at (859)936-7822.

Photos by April Burgess



*Inter-County Energy will be closed Monday, September 5, in honor of Labor Day.*

*Please contact our 24-hour outage line in case of an emergency or outage by calling 800-224-2235.*





## What's behind higher energy costs?

### OUR MISSION

The mission of Inter-County Energy Cooperative is to provide long-term valued electrical energy and services to our members through a culture of safety, accountability, innovation, integrity, and commitment to community.

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Jerry Carter

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Prices are going up. We've all seen it at the grocery, the gas pump and practically everywhere else.

What is happening? Part of the issue is lingering impacts from the pandemic. Many industries slowed down, and it takes time to bounce back. It is difficult to find workers, materials, parts and transportation, and they cost more than a year or two ago. Supply chains that ran smoothly for years have faltered. Here at Inter-County Energy, we are paying much more for electric wire and transformers, and it is taking us much longer to get them.

That is pushing electric bills higher. Contributing even more is the cost of fuel for our power plants. As the economy ramps up, more coal and natural gas is being used to make more electricity for factories, offices, stores and homes.

But coal mining and natural gas drilling have not kept pace. Why not? Like other industries they face challenges finding workers and equipment. Beyond that, they face government policies that put new investments in mining and drilling at tremendous risk, so they are hesitant to expand. Meanwhile, they can sell U.S. coal and natural gas overseas at prices much higher than what we pay here, driving up our costs.

If power plant fuel is expensive, what about renewables? After all, sunshine and wind are free. If only for that reason, renewables will play an increasingly important role in energy production for years to come. But, as we all know, the lights must



stay on, even when the wind stops blowing or a cloud blocks the sun. The fact is, the constant need for electricity necessitates keeping coal, gas and nuclear plants running until we figure out how to store massive amounts of energy at low cost.

But, like mining and drilling, it is very risky to build fossil or nuclear power plants, mainly due to years of government policies limiting these technologies while providing generous incentives for renewables. So, when demand for electricity goes up—typically very hot or very cold days—there are fewer and fewer options for generating power, especially if sun and wind are not available. That is another big driver of higher power costs.

Rest assured, Inter-County Energy is doing everything we can to maintain reliable service at competitive rates. And we are working with policymakers in an effort to ensure we can continue doing that for many years to come.